Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

2007/08 Annual Service Plan Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Best Place on Earth

2008-05942/

Due to policy changes by the National Library of Canada cataloguing information is no longer available for Annual Service Plan Reports.

For more information on how to contact the British Columbia Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, see Ministry Contact Information on Page 22 or contact:

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
PO BOX 9100
STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA BC
V8W 9B1

or visit our website at
www.gov.bc.ca/arr/

Published by the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement

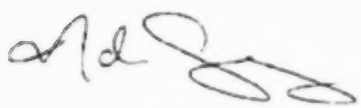
I am pleased to present the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation *2007/08 Annual Service Plan Report*, outlining achievements during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008.

The report reflects ongoing efforts to support government agencies and organizations with initiatives to help close the gaps in economic development, education, health care and housing that separate Aboriginal peoples from other British Columbians. Encouraged by successful ratification of Final Agreements by six First Nations and by the introduction of treaty settlement legislation, we remain committed to treaty negotiations as a full and formal expression of reconciliation.

The year covered by this report proved rewarding and productive. Efforts to further the New Relationship with First Nations and Métis, based on mutual respect, recognition and reconciliation, are resulting in co-operation and renewed relationships, and agreements that are improving the lives of Aboriginal peoples.

We are determined to continue building the New Relationship with Aboriginal peoples and developing partnerships that strengthen Aboriginal communities and will build a better future for all British Columbians.

The 2007/08 Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Annual Service Plan report compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the Ministry's 2006/07 – 2008/09 Service Plan Update. I am accountable for those results as reported.



Honourable Michael de Jong
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

June 20, 2008

Table of Contents

Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement ____ 3

Highlights of the Year ____ 7

Purpose of Ministry ____ 9

Strategic Context ____ 10

Report on Performance ____ 12

Performance Plan Summary Table ____ 12

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results ____ 13

Report on Resources ____ 19

2007/08 Resource Summary Table ____ 19

Annual Service Plan Report Appendices ____ 21

Appendix A: Boards, Commissions and Councils ____ 21

Appendix B: Ministry Contact Information ____ 22

Highlights of the Year

The provincial government remains committed to its New Relationship with Aboriginal peoples. The Transformative Change Accord and the Métis Nation Relationship Accord create the foundation for strong governments, social justice and economic self-reliance for First Nations. For the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation this has been a year of significant achievements.

Recognition of Aboriginal rights and title and reconciliation of long standing grievances are important elements of the New Relationship with First Nations. In 2007/08 several significant agreements were concluded:

- Reconciliation Settlement and Benefits Agreement with Musqueam First Nation;
- Accommodation Agreement with Kamloops Indian Band regarding Rayleigh Lands;
- Economic Benefits Agreement with Treaty 8 First Nations (Doig River, Fort Nelson, Prophet River and West Moberly);
- Land and Resource Management Agreement with Blueberry River First Nation;
- Strategic Land Use Agreement with Council of the Haida Nation;
- Land Use/Collaborative Agreement for Management of Protected Areas with Squamish Nation; and
- Morice Lands and Resource Management Plan with Wet'suwet'en, Lake Babine Nation, Nedo'at Hereditary Chiefs, Yekooche First Nation.

In addition, the conclusion of cut-off claims with Seton Lake Indian Band, Gitwangak Indian Band, Metlakatla Indian Band and Lax Kw'alaams Indian Band marks the completion of all cut-off claims in British Columbia.

TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

Concluding treaties with First Nations, that increase stability in management and decision-making processes related to land and resource development, will materially improve the lives of Aboriginal peoples in British Columbia. In this regard, we are pleased to report that we have ratified two final agreements — the first with Tsawwassen First Nation and the second with the five Maa-nulth First Nations (Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h First Nations, Toquaht Nation, Uchucklesaht Tribe, and the Ucluelet First Nation).

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE ACCORD AND MÉTIS NATION RELATIONSHIP ACCORD

The Province continues to make progress toward commitments made in the Transformative Change Accord and the Métis Nation Relationship Accord to close the gaps that exist between Aboriginal peoples and other British Columbians in economic opportunities, health, education and housing. The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation is responsible for reporting on progress under these important Accords. To this end, a report and associated website entitled New Relationships with Aboriginal peoples and Communities in B.C. provides an overview of progress being made throughout the province by government and Aboriginal peoples. Significant accomplishments include:

- Enacted legislation to recognize First Nations jurisdiction over on-reserve schools;
- Partnered with First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council and other organizations to deliver language revitalization and immersion initiatives;
- Announced $65 million for the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Strategy;
- Launched the Aboriginal Internship Program within the B.C. Public Service;
- Completed a housing needs assessment both on and off reserves;
- Implemented the new $500,000 Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program;
- The Métis Nation BC completed consultations on its implementation plan under the Métis Nation Relationship Accord;
- Announced funding for the Stehiyaq Healing and Wellness Village; and
- Provided $5 million to implement the Aboriginal Cultural Tourism Strategy.

For more information on these initiatives please visit our website at www.gov.bc.ca/arr/.

Purpose of Ministry

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation is the centre of excellence for innovative approaches to Aboriginal policy and the Province's representative for all treaty negotiations. Accordingly, the Ministry plays a vital role in leading the way forward in the New Relationship. The Ministry provides strategic advice across government and identifies opportunities to facilitate the removal of barriers to stimulate positive outcomes for Aboriginal peoples.

The New Relationship is a government priority and requires each ministry and Crown agency to include an Aboriginal component in reaching the Five Great Goals. As the government's lead on the New Relationship, the Ministry is focusing its efforts in three key strategic areas:

- closing the socio-economic gaps between Aboriginal peoples and other British Columbians;
- building respectful relationships with Aboriginal peoples; and
- reconciliation of Aboriginal rights and title through treaties and other lasting agreements.

The Ministry supports achievement of these goals by recommending innovative policies and initiatives to government. The Ministry promotes creative and integrated cross-government work that brings together partners from other ministries and Crown agencies, federal and local governments and other sectors around Aboriginal initiatives. The Ministry does not direct the activities of other ministries or Crown agencies but instead builds and maintains relationships to achieve success on issues of shared interest.

The Ministry has collaboratively achieved a number of accomplishments toward closing the socio-economic gap and building respectful relationships with Aboriginal partners. Negotiations are ongoing throughout the province to conclude treaties and other lasting agreements.

Working with its partners the Ministry makes appointments to the BC Treaty Commission, First Peoples' Advisory Committee, First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council, Native Economic Development Advisory Board and New Relationship Trust Board.

A list of statutes that fall under the responsibility of the Ministry can be found at: www.leg.bc.ca/procs/allacts/arr.htm.

Strategic Context

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation operates in a complex environment. British Columbia is home to over one-third of the country's 600+ First Nations comprising the most culturally and linguistically diverse groups of Aboriginal peoples in all of Canada. This diversity means there is no "one solution" to achieve reconciliation. Instead, the Ministry must strive to address the unique situations of disparate First Nations and Aboriginal peoples. There are over 196,000 people in British Columbia who identify themselves as First Nation, Métis or Inuit. Most significantly, the fastest growing demographic province-wide is Aboriginal youth. With the socio-economic disparities that exist between Aboriginal peoples and other British Columbians it is essential that steps are taken to provide Aboriginal youth with the opportunities to succeed both within their communities and throughout the province. Historically, Aboriginal peoples have not had access to services at the same level as other British Columbians. Fundamental services such as basic community infrastructure, including housing and water facilities and appropriate education curriculum have, until recently, been inadequate. Poverty, prevalence of illness and chronic disease, inadequate housing, unemployment and low high-school completion rates are measures of our collective failure.

Despite these challenges in 2007/08 British Columbia and its Aboriginal partners made significant progress towards a New Relationship with Aboriginal peoples. The focus on reconciling Aboriginal and treaty rights through negotiations represents an important step forward from a history of confrontation, litigation and failure to reconcile differences with Aboriginal peoples. Historic agreements committing government resources to economic development, education, health and housing initiatives demonstrate achievements under the Transformative Change Accord. The government has vowed to address the inequities that have plagued Aboriginal peoples throughout British Columbia's history. Reconciliation is at the heart of this initiative. Positive and enduring relationships must be built on trust, mutual respect and recognition of the constitutional rights of Aboriginal peoples.

Closing the socio-economic gap

The Transformative Change Accord, signed in 2005 by Canada, the Province and the First Nations Leadership Council made up of leaders from the three main First Nations political organizations in the province, signals a tripartite commitment to work together over the next ten years to close the socio-economic gap between Aboriginal peoples and other British Columbians. This accord outlines specifically how this will be achieved in British Columbia by setting priorities and outlining key actions in the following areas: improved Crown-First Nations relationships; education and life-long learning; housing and infrastructure; health; and economic opportunities. Likewise, the Métis Nation Relationship Accord between the Province and the Métis Nation British Columbia acknowledges the influence on the province's history of Métis people as a distinct people with their own language, culture and traditions.

Other efforts to bridge the gap in social and economic outcomes include: assisting Aboriginal peoples to improve housing through the development of a 10-year off-reserve Aboriginal Housing Strategy, spanning the continuum from homelessness to home ownership; supporting the advancement of First Nations in the development of their community health plans; reducing financial barriers for Aboriginal post-secondary learners by implementing the Aboriginal Post Secondary Education Strategy, including a $10 million endowed scholarship fund; assisting Aboriginal entrepreneurs through the First Citizens Fund and promoting targeted employment training by implementing an Aboriginal Apprenticeship Strategy; and supporting recognition of and celebrating Aboriginal languages and culture.

Building a New Relationship

The Ministry's active partnership with the First Nations Leadership Council has facilitated priority-setting on a wide range of issues including the development of frameworks and tools to assist in the implementation of the New Relationship. This partnership has enabled renewed focus on issues such as consultation and accommodation, revenue and benefit sharing, and shared decision making. The Ministry continues to build strong relationships with First Nations, Aboriginal organizations and Métis Nation British Columbia. The appointment of Honourable Judge Steven Point, of the Skowkale First Nation to the post of Lieutenant Governor, is a symbolic and meaningful commitment by governments in Canada to build better relationships with First Nations. As the former Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission, Steven Point has been an active supporter of the treaty process and a strong advocate for First Nations, while understanding the obstacles and opportunities in the path ahead.

Concluding treaties and lasting agreements

British Columbia remains committed to the negotiation of treaties as a full and formal expression of reconciliation. Treaties clarify and specify how Aboriginal rights will be expressed in the context of modern Canadian society. They set out who has treaty rights, what those rights mean and what obligations fall on governments in implementing treaties. Treaties also give First Nations better tools to develop their governance, lands and resources. This year, the Ministry celebrates the conclusion of treaties with the Tsawwassen and Maa-nulth First Nation and looks forward to concluding additional treaties over the next three years. Other lasting agreements — such as those with the Musqueam First Nation, the Blueberry River First Nation and the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations — represent an investment in the future of all British Columbians. Resource revenue sharing agreements create economic opportunities that will result in social benefits over time as communities prosper. Moreover, these agreements create a more stable, and consequently, a more favourable environment for industry and business.

Report on Performance

Performance Plan Summary Table

Goal 1: Concluded treaties and other lasting agreements on Crown lands and natural resources with First Nations	2007/08 Target	2007/08 Actual
Percentage of B.C. Crown land covered by agreements with First Nations	84.91%	87.82% Exceeded
1.1 Conclude agreements that define rights and responsibilities and facilitate economic development		
Number of new initiatives that partner First Nations or Aboriginal organizations with local governments and the private sector	6-8	7 Achieved
Number of new significant agreements or business arrangements between First Nations and government	4-5	5 Achieved
Number of treaty agreements or initiatives that build incremental progress towards treaties or other lasting agreements	8-11	9 Achieved

Goal 2: Improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples	2007/08 Target	2007/08 Actual
2.1 Cross government implementation of programs and services to address socio-economic disparities		
Number of initiatives/actions undertaken through cross government plans to assist in closing the socio-economic gap	4-6	11 Exceeded
Increased partnerships with federal government and Aboriginal organizations to improve social and economic programs and services	4-6	6 Achieved

Goal 3: Build strong and respectful relationships between government and Aboriginal organizations	2007/08 Target	2007/08 Actual
Number of engagements with Aboriginal organizations on provincial policy development	3-5	5 Achieved
3.1 Build trust with Aboriginal peoples through a reconciliation and recognition framework		
Number of agreements reached with Aboriginal organizations that foster reconciliation and recognition	15	15 Achieved
Number of sessions/events undertaken to increase awareness of Aboriginal issues in British Columbia	115-120	150 Exceeded
3.2 Foster engagement with Aboriginal peoples in government decisions that impact Aboriginal communities		
Implementation of First Nations consultation framework	In Implementation	In Implementation

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

Goal 1: Concluded treaties and other lasting agreements on Crown lands and natural resources with First Nations

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Target	2007/08 Actual
Percentage of B.C. Crown land covered by agreements with First Nations	67%	80.91%	+4%	87.82% EXCEEDED

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Discussion of Results

This measure reflects overall progress made by the Province toward achieving greater predictability for Crown land and resource development through a variety of negotiated agreements between the Province and one or more First Nations, both within and outside of the British Columbia treaty process.

Ministry Response

This calculation is cumulative and includes Forest and Range Opportunity Agreements, Mountain Pine Beetle Agreements, Interim Measures and Ratified Final Agreements.

Objective 1.1: Conclude agreements that define rights and responsibilities and facilitate economic development

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective included:

- Provide leadership to agencies to support consultation and accommodation activities.
- Strengthen relationships between First Nations, local governments and business.
- Focus on key opportunities to conclude agreements with First Nations.
- Introduce improved practices related to the timely transfer of Crown land, resources and program responsibility to First Nations following treaties or other agreements.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Target	2007/08 Actual
Number of new initiatives that partner First Nations or Aboriginal organizations with local governments and the private sector	7	10	6-8	7 ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Health; Ministry of Advanced Education; Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Discussion of Results

The Ministry has supported, coordinated and facilitated a number of new initiatives that partner First Nations or Aboriginal organizations with local governments and the private sector. Some examples of these initiatives include:

- Transfer Agreement to support a band-owned and band-operated beachfront campground;
- Funding for social and economic development projects identified and led by the communities; and
- "Building Governance Capacity" program with the Union of BC Municipalities, furthering existing relationships between local governments and First Nations.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Target	2007/08 Actual
Number of new significant agreements or business arrangements between First Nations and government	4	6	4-5	5 ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Forests and Range; Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Discussion of Results

The Ministry has concluded the following significant agreements: Reconciliation Settlement and Benefits Agreement with the Musqueam First Nation; Land and Resources Management Agreement with the Blueberry First Nation; Economic Benefits Agreement with Treaty 8 First Nations; Tahltan Reconciliation Agreement; and Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations Settlement Agreement.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Target	2007/08 Actual
Number of treaty agreements or initiatives that build incremental progress towards treaties or other lasting agreements	2	8	8-11	9 ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Discussion of Results

Under this performance measure we are pleased to report that we have ratified two final agreements — the first with Tsawwassen First Nation and the second with the five Maanulth First Nations (Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h First Nations, Toquaht Nation, Uchucklesaht Tribe, and the Ucluelet First Nation).

Goal 2: Improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples

Objective 2.1: Cross government implementation of programs and services to address socio-economic disparities

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective included:

- Develop and implement a cross government measurement framework for closing the socio-economic gap.
- Promote cross ministry co-ordination of initiatives directed toward serving Aboriginal peoples and closing the gap on key socio-economic indicators.
- Build partnerships with the federal government and Aboriginal organizations to improve social and economic programs and services.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Target	2007/08 Actual
Number of initiatives/actions undertaken through cross government plans to assist in closing the socio-economic gap	N/A	7	4-6	11 EXCEEDED

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Discussion of Results

Initiatives that assisted in closing the socio-economic gap included a range of programs, services and funding support co-ordinated across provincial ministries. For example, the Aboriginal Youth Internship Program; Aboriginal Coordinated Service Delivery Initiative; the Aboriginal Post-secondary Strategy; and many others.

Ministry Response

The Ministry successfully promoted partnerships and led cross ministry co-ordination of initiatives that enabled more than twice the targeted number of initiatives to be successfully completed this fiscal year.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Target	2007/08 Actual
Increased partnerships with federal government and Aboriginal organizations to improve social and economic programs and services	N/A	5	4-6	6 ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Discussion of Results

The Ministry facilitates partnerships between the Province, the federal government and Aboriginal organizations to enhance progress on social and economic programs such as the First Nations Health Forum including tripartite First Nations Health Plan, renewal of the provincial partnership with the Office of the Federal Interlocutor on the Urban Aboriginal Strategy, and tripartite self-government policy engagements with the Métis Nation.

Goal 3: Build strong and respectful relationships between government and Aboriginal organizations

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Target	2007/08 Actual
Number of engagements with Aboriginal organizations and communities on provincial policy development	3	8	3-5	5 ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion of Results

This measure reflects the Province's commitment to strengthen relationships with Aboriginal political organizations. These are relationships grown on a give-and-take basis. Partners often take strong positions to promote their interests. Disagreements occur, but the relationships develop in the spirit of mutual respect and ongoing collaboration.

The Ministry leads cross government engagements with the First Nations Leadership Council, the Métis Nation and the First Nations Summit Task Force on a wide range of issues and at many different fora such as working groups and senior officials tables.

Objective 3.1: Build trust with Aboriginal peoples through a reconciliation and recognition framework

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective included:

- Engage with Aboriginal organizations and communities on a range of provincial policy topics including amendments to the *Wildlife Act*, consultation regarding the British Columbia Training Tax Credit Program and the Oil and Gas Consultation Process Agreements with Treaty 8 First Nations.
- Engage with Aboriginal organizations and communities to develop protocols and agreements that foster recognition and reconciliation.
- Provide leadership and support to ministries and provincial agencies involved in reconciliation activities.
- Undertake initiatives to increase public awareness and understanding to promote reconciliation.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Target	2007/08 Actual
Number of agreements reached with Aboriginal organizations that foster reconciliation and recognition	1	13	15	15 Achieved
Number of sessions/events undertaken to increase awareness of Aboriginal issues in British Columbia	115	120	115-120	150 Exceeded

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Discussion of Results

The Province's commitment to fostering reconciliation and recognition supported a range of agreements reached in 2007/08, such as the Aboriginal Tourism Association of BC's Aboriginal Cultural Tourism Blueprint Strategy, the Hupacasath Collaborative Agreement for the Management of Parks and Protected Areas, and support to film storytelling initiatives with Bonaparte Indian Band, Cowichan Tribes and Squamish Nation.

Ministry Response

These measures also reflect the Ministry's commitment to build relationships by enhancing public awareness of First Nations' contributions and by promoting reconciliation. Announcements, meetings and public events, open houses, publications and speeches supported this commitment.

Objective 3.2: Foster engagement with Aboriginal peoples in government decisions that impact Aboriginal communities

Strategies

- Implementation of a new effective consultation and accommodation framework for government ministries.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Target	2007/08 Actual
First Nations consultation framework	N/A	Framework Complete	In Implementation	In Implementation

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Discussion of Results

The Province is engaged with the First Nations Leadership Council in various fora and working groups to improve ways of interaction and engagement. Examples are the Recognition Working Group, Common Table, Land Use Planning Working Group, Cultural Heritage Working Group, and Aquaculture Working Group. Provincial ministries continue to be guided by the existing provincial consultation guidelines.

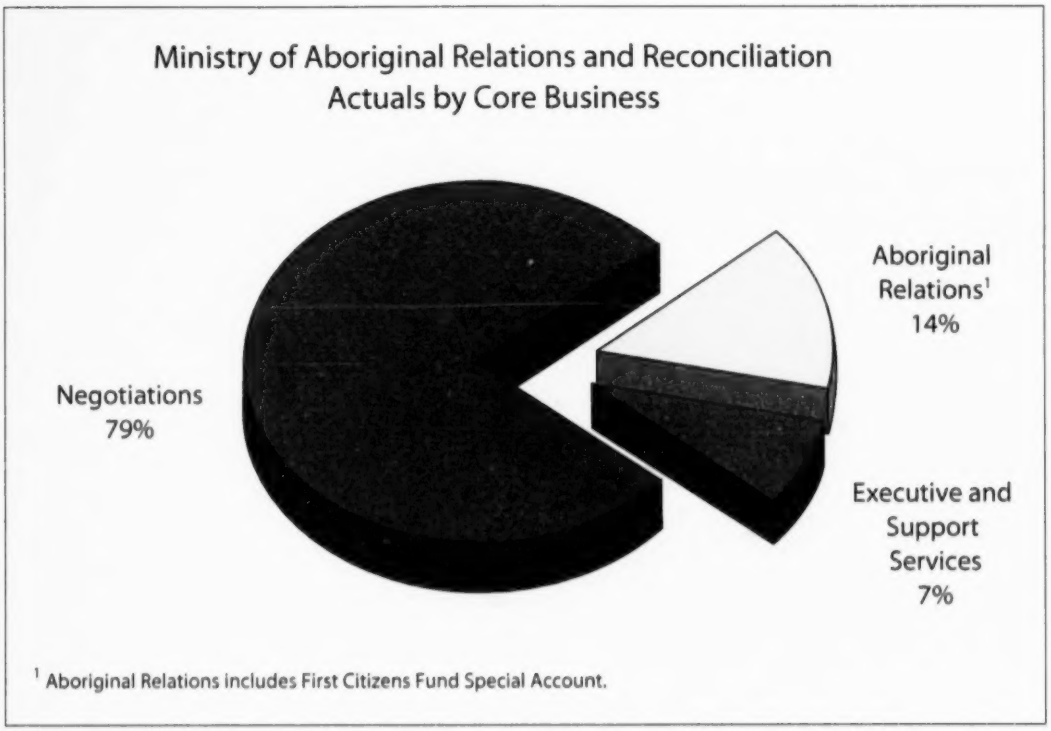
Report on Resources

2007/08 Resource Summary Table

Core Business Areas	Estimated	Other Authorizations[1]	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Negotiations	35,955	32,582	68,537	69,050	513
Aboriginal Relations[2]	11,893	—	11,893	12,139	246
Executive and Support Services	7,312	—	7,312	6,487	(825)
Total	**55,160**	**32,582**	**87,742**	**87,676**	**(66)**
Full-time Equivalents (Direct FTEs)					
Negotiations	112	—	112	96	(16)
Aboriginal Relations	27	—	27	26	(1)
Executive and Support Services	40	—	40	36	(4)
Total	**179**	**—**	**179**	**158**	**(21)**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)					
Total	**32**	**378**	**410**	**410**	**0**
Other Financing Transactions ($000)					
Negotiations — Nisga'a cash payments — deferrals	2,389	—	2,389	981	(1,408)
Negotiations — Land purchases	4,000	—	4,000	195	(3,805)
Total Disbursements	**6,389**	**—**	**6,389**	**1,176**	**(5,213)**

[1] "Other Authorizations" include contingency access of $8,904,000 for the Musqueam Reconciliation Agreement and $13,320,000 for Treaty 8 Economic Benefits Agreement.

[2] Aboriginal Relations includes First Citizens Fund Special Account.


Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
Actuals by Core Business
Aboriginal Relations[1] 14%
Negotiations 79%
Executive and Support Services 7%

[1] Aboriginal Relations includes First Citizens Fund Special Account.

Annual Service Plan Report Appendices

Appendix A: Boards, Commissions and Councils

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation has direct responsibility for the following Boards, Commissions and Councils:

First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council
www.fphlcc.ca

First Peoples' Advisory Committee
www.fphlcc.ca

Native Economic Development Advisory Board
www.gov.bc.ca/arr/economic/fcf/nedab.html

New Relationship Trust Board
www.newrelationshiptrust.ca

BC Treaty Commission
www.bctreaty.net/

Appendix B: Ministry Contact Information

Physical Address:
2957 Jutland Road
Victoria BC
V8T 5J9

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9100
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC
V8W 9B1

Telephone: 1 800 880-1022
E-mail: ABRInfo@gov.bc.ca
URL: www.gov.bc.ca/arr